

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 7, 2003. Claims 1-9 are pending in this case.

Claims 1, 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Abramson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,131,135). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claim 1 recites an arbitration method of a bus bridge, which interfaces, “a primary-side bus with a plurality of secondary buses.” Claim 1 also recites that the bus bridge supports, “a plurality of kinds of operations one of which is an operation related to a serial bus in accordance with IEEE 1394.” [Emphasis added].

Abramson fails to disclose (or render obvious) all of the limitations of claim 1. For example, Abramson does not disclose (or render obvious), a serial bus in accordance with IEEE 1394. To the contrary, Abramson merely discloses a Host Bridge 115, a BIU 140, a USB 150 and 155, a PCI bus 130, and a memory 120, and an arbitration method between two USBs. That is, Abramson does not disclose a serial bus in accordance with IEEE 1394 attempting to access the Host Bridge 115 (or vice versa), much less an arbitration method for managing a serial bus in accordance with IEEE 1394. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over Abramson at least for the reasons mentioned above in connection with claim 1, and also because Abramson does not anticipate (or render obvious) the inventive combination defined by claim 5. Therefore, the rejection of claim 5 should be withdrawn.

Claim 8 recites an arbitration system comprising a bus bridge, wherein the bus bridge is configured to give access rights equally to each of the secondary side buses, by not giving a priority to any one of the secondary side buses. Abramson discloses a USB arbiter using a rotating arbitration to select whether the first or second USB host controller has access to the bus. Abramson fails to teach or suggest the limitation of giving access rights equally to each of the secondary side buses as well as not giving a priority to any one of the

secondary side buses. Instead, Abramson merely discloses that the rotating arbitration method selects USB controllers in a predetermined sequence. Therefore, the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abramson in further view of Tang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,370). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Abramson at least for the reasons mentioned above with respect to claim 1. Claim 9 depends from claim 8 is allowable over Abramson at least for the reasons mentioned above with respect to claim 8.

Further, please note that Tang does not disclose (or render obvious), giving an access right equally to each of the secondary side buses. The arbitration method disclosed by Tang is a memory arbitration method between a PCI Bus Master, PCI Slave, a Voice Codec SM and Stereo Codec SM and not an arbitration method between secondary side bus in which an IEEE 1394 bus is employed, much less an arbitration method “giving an access right equally to each of the secondary side buses.”

Thus, the proposed combination does not teach or suggest the inventions as claimed. Accordingly, the combination of Abramson and Tang does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claims 2, 4 and 9, and the rejection of claims 2, 4 and 9 should be withdrawn.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abramson. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is allowable at least for those reasons mentioned above in connection with claim 1, and because Abramson does not teach, suggest, or otherwise motivate one skilled in the art to arrive at the respective inventive combination defined by claim 3. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 3 over Abramson should be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abramson in further view of Quackenbush et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,824).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. At least for the reasons mentioned above with respect to claim 1, claim 6 is allowable over Abramson. In addition, Quackenbush merely discloses a single PCI local bus 22A coupled to a plurality of port controllers 26A-H and to a PCI bridge 38, and a round robin access scheme for accessing the single local PCI bus 22A when all of the port controllers 26A-H are the same type. Quackenbush at column 4, lines 47-50. Quackenbush fails to teach or suggest a "primary-side bus" and a "secondary-side bus" interfaced by a bus bridge in which the bus bridge gives a highest priority to the primary-side bus, "when the primary-side bus lodges an access demand to the secondary-side buses irrespective of a condition of arbitration between the secondary-side buses." Accordingly, the combination of Abramson and Quackenbush does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 6, and the rejection of claim 6 should be withdrawn.

Further, at least for the reasons mentioned above in connection with claim 6, claim 7 is allowable over Abramson and Quackenbush. Accordingly, the combination of Abramson and Quackenbush does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 7, and the rejection of claim 7 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. According, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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